

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR ELECTION DAY

★1 CALL AHEAD

Well before Nov. 2, call your county clerk or board of election commissioners to make sure you're registered and to find out where your polling place is. It's especially important to follow up if you recently registered or updated your address but haven't received confirmation from your county clerk. Don't wait until Election Day to find out!

★2 I.D. — DON'T GO WITHOUT IT

You may need to show I.D. at the poll, especially if you are a first-time voter. To be safe, bring your driver's license OR a paycheck, utility bill or government document that includes your name and address.

★3 AVOID THE CROWDS

If you can, go to the polls during off hours: 10-11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. That's when it's usually less crowded. But even if there is a line, don't leave without voting. The outcome of this election will be important! If you can't take time off work to go to the polls, you can **vote absentee** or **early vote**. Just call your county clerk to request an absentee ballot or to find the early voting sites in your area.

Each election year brings last-minute inquiries from voters who are unsure of what they need, where they should go and how they should do it. But information from the Secretary of State and the League of Women Voters is available to clarify the process for Arkansans. Simple language briefly explains why voters need identification, what to do if their name does not appear on the precinct list and what it means to vote a provisional ballot. Use these tips to help educate your constituents.

★4 YOUR BALLOT, YOUR VOTE

Don't panic if you registered to vote but your name is not on the list. Ask a poll worker for help to make sure your vote is counted. You may need to go to another polling place or vote a provisional ballot.

★5 PROVISIONAL VOTING

If you applied for voter registration but neither poll workers nor the county clerk can verify your status, you will vote a "Provisional Ballot." The election commission will later determine if your vote can be counted, then let you know the result of that decision. It's one more safeguard to make sure you have a voice.

★6 TAKE A FRIEND TO VOTE

Why go alone when you can take a loved one with you? Neighbors who live alone and first-time voters will certainly appreciate a ride to the polls.

got voice? **VOTE!**



Charlie Daniels
Secretary of State

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ELECT Arkansas

Energetic Leadership Educating Citizens Together

October 2004

News on Voting in Arkansas from Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

Remember Provisional Ballot Procedures

One aspect of voting that causes some confusion among voters and poll workers alike is the provisional voting process. While it may be disconcerting to provisional voters, this alternative ballot is designed to help ensure that each voter has every opportunity to be counted, even when questions about his or her eligibility are raised.

Provisional ballots are cast when a voter's identity is questioned or when a voter's name does not appear on the precinct voter registration list. Before certifying the election, the county board of election commissioners must review all provisional ballots, determine if the voters are eligible to vote in this election, then notify voters whether or not their vote could be counted.

In its Election Official Training

Guide, the State Board of Election Commissioners provides the following provisional ballot procedures as set forth in Arkansas Code Annotated §7-5-306 and 7-5-312.

Registration Status

When a voter's name does not appear on the precinct voter registration list, the election official must first attempt to verify the voter's registration status with the county clerk. If status cannot be confirmed, the voter may cast a provisional ballot as follows:

- An election official must inform the voter that he/she may cast a provisional ballot,
- The voter must sign a written affirmation stating that he/she is a registered voter in that precinct and is

(See *PROVISIONAL Cont. on Page 2*)



Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

Despite the road bumps of court challenges, ballot delays and the rush of new registrations to process, election season is still a highlight of my position as Secretary of State. What a genuine thrill it is to oversee the very essence of our rights as Americans. While it is no doubt the busiest of periods for all of us, I urge you to remember what an honor it is to hold the responsibility of "election official."

As the Presidential race grows closer, Arkansas stands in the media's spotlight as a swing state. We are seeing more voters become energized, and that means we should all be prepared for heavy turnout at the polls. One way to ease that last-minute rush is to promote early voting. You can help educate the public about this relatively new option by contacting your local media and asking for their help in getting the word out. That could help increase turnout but, at the same time, make November 2 less hectic for election workers.

My staff and I stand ready as a resource for you, providing answers and support whenever needed throughout this election season. I appreciate all the efforts you have made to serve voters thus far. I look forward to working with you further to make this General Election run smoothly and successfully. I look forward to serving you.

See you at the polls!

Election Officials Rally to Help Arkansas Soldiers Vote

While troops from Arkansas are waging the war on terrorism, election officials at home are racing to ensure soldiers enjoy the same democratic rights they are fighting to protect.

The Arkansas Secretary of State, Arkansas's county clerks, U.S. Postal Service and Department of Defense have teamed up to expedite delivery of absentee ballots to and from 3,000 Arkansas National Guardsmen stationed in Iraq. Absentee ballots provided by the USPS by Oct. 15



**ABSENTEE
MILITARY VOTING**

will be specially delivered to troops and returned to the counties in time to be counted by the Nov. 12 deadline for counting.

Because of court challenges

that delayed ballot printing, some counties may not have been able to provide the standard absentee ballot by the post office deadline. However, soldiers in those counties will have an alternative through the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot available to them

(See *SOLDIER Cont. on Page 3*)

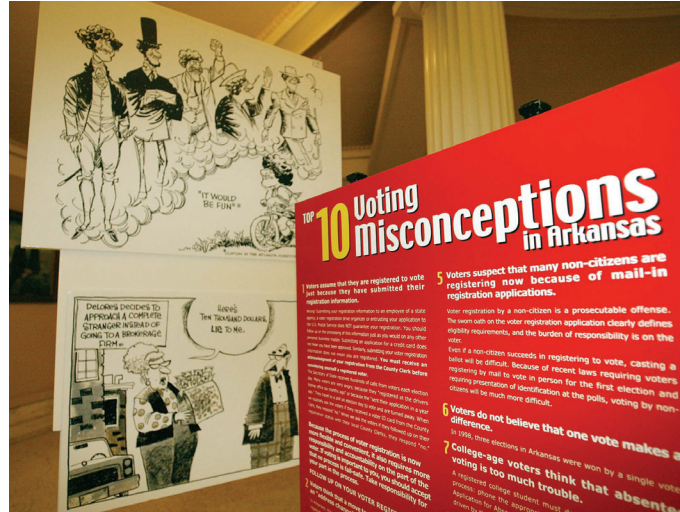
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"Election Central" Offers Political News of Past, Present



The State Capitol rotunda has been transformed into "Election Central 2004" with a treasury of information presented by the Arkansas Educational Television Network in conjunction with the Secretary of State Charlie Daniels. The exhibit will continue through Election Day, November 2, in the symbolic heart of Arkansas politics.

The installation offers straight answers to questions concerning elections law, absentee balloting and ballot measures. On display are district maps, candidate portraits, political memorabilia and a gallery of vintage political cartoons by some of Arkansas's most skilled artists. Daily updates will present current reports on local, statewide and national races. On November 2, election results will be posted on these boards as they are certified.

PROVISIONAL (continued from front page)

eligible to vote in the current election,

- An election official must provide written instructions for determining whether the vote was counted, and if not, the reason the vote was not counted.
- The election official must denote provisional voters on the precinct voter list.

Poll Watcher Challenges

Under Arkansas Code Annotated §7-5-312, poll watchers can challenge the identity of a voter, but the challenge must be made before a ballot is issued to the voter. When a challenge is made:

- An election official must inform the voter that his/her ballot is being challenged by a poll watcher,
- The poll watcher challenging the ballot must display credentials (a valid "Poll Watcher Authorization Form"),
- The poll watcher must complete a "Challenged Ballot Form,"
- The voter must vote on a paper ballot/vote card initialed by the election official,
- The voter must separate his/her marked ballot from the ballot stub,
- The voter must place the provisional ballot in a single envelope marked "Provisional Ballot" and seal the envelope,
- The voter must place the ballot stub, the sealed "Provisional Ballot" envelope, and the "Challenged Ballot Form" in an envelope marked "Provisional Voter," and
- The election official must maintain a separate list of names of provisional voters.

All provisional ballots must be preserved, secured and separated from the remaining ballots to the end that the right of any person to vote may be determined later by the county board of election commissioners or the court in which an election contest may thereafter be filed.

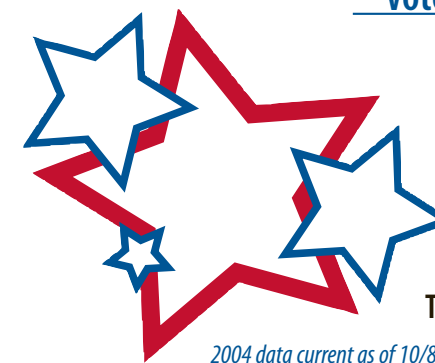
The county board of election commissioners must, prior to certification of the results of the election, determine whether the provisional ballots are valid. If commissioners suspect a violation of election laws has occurred, the board may refer the matter to the prosecuting attorney.

Conway Students Help Kick Off Kids Voting Month

Students from Theodore Jones Elementary School in Conway joined Secretary of State Charlie Daniels on Oct. 1 to kick off Kids Voting Month. The rally, held in the State Capitol Rotunda, introduced upcoming programs such as Kids Voting USA, National Student-Parent Mock Election and other voter education resources available through the Secretary of State's office. Details are available on the administration's new educational website, www.soskids.arkansas.gov.



Arkansas Voter Registration – By the Numbers



Voter Registration

2000

2004

Total Registered Voters	1,563,796	1,641,219
New Voters Registered	143,640	111,893
Total Voters Age 18-24	98,553	103,705

The Secretary of State processed a single-day record of 5,293 applications on Oct. 4, 2004

2004 data current as of 10/8/2004

SOLDIERS (continued from front page)

from their county clerk. That ballot traditionally allowed soldiers to vote in federal races, but Secretary of State Charlie Daniels is providing candidate lists that will help soldiers vote in all national, state and local races, from president to constable. Each soldier will receive a sheet tailored to his or her home county for reference in completing the write-in ballot.

"I appreciate all the work our county clerks and election commissioners have done to help us provide ballots to our soldiers in time," Daniels said. "We all appreciate the troops' sacrifice so much and want to help them as much as we can. It's just the right thing to do."

For more information, visit the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.arkansas.gov or the Federal Voting Assistance Program at

Students Take Their Turn In Mock Election

An early gauge for the outcome of Election 2004 will come on Oct. 28 as more than 35,000 Arkansans take part in the National Student/Parent Mock Election. Hosted locally by Secretary of State Charlie Daniels, the program is the nation's largest voter education project, which strives to engage students in the voting process.

Participants from around the state will not only cast their votes for presidential and district candidates, but they'll also weigh in on current events. In addition to casting ballots, students, parents and teachers will also collect voting pledges from family and friends, as well as write essays on the importance of voting. The Secretary of State's web log — or "blog" — will serve as a forum for students in discussing current issues.

Mock Election Day will conclude with a reception for participants and public officials at the State Capitol, beginning at 4 p.m.

To learn more, contact Crystal Shell, (501) 682-3470 or ceshell@sosmail.state.ar.us.

Identification and Fail-Safe Voting

In addition to provisional voting, poll workers should also remember these Election Day procedures:

Confirming Identity

First-time voters who registered by mail must provide identification either with their application or on their first visit to the polls.

Those who registered by mail after January 1, 2003, and did not include a copy of the required identification must present ID on their first visit to the polls. Accepted forms of identification include a valid Arkansas driver's license or photo ID, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address. Voters without ID may vote a provisional ballot (see page 1 for guidelines).

Fail-Safe Voting

Fail-Safe Voting permits registered voters who move to an address within their current precinct to cast a ballot and fill out a change-of-address form. Registered voters who have moved into a new precinct within the county may vote at their new polling site and fill out a change of address form.

Procedures for casting Provisional Ballots and Fail-Safe Voting are detailed in the Voting Rights and Election Law posters that were recently mailed to counties by the Secretary of State. These posters must be displayed at all polling sites.